

NUCLEIC ACID PROBES FOR DETECTION AND/OR
QUANTITATION OF NON-VIRAL ORGANISMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for preparing probes, as well as several
5 probes for use in qualitative or quantitative hybridization
assays are disclosed. The method comprises constructing an
oligonucleotide that is sufficiently complementary to hybridize
to a region of rRNA selected to be unique to a non-viral organism
or group of non-viral organisms sought to be detected, said
10 region of rRNA being selected by comparing one or more variable
region rRNA sequences of said non-viral organism or group of non-
viral organisms with one or more variable region rRNA sequences
from one or more non-viral organisms sought to be distinguished.
Hybridization assay probes for Mycobacterium avium, Mycobacterium
15 intracellulare, the Mycobacterium tuberculosis-complex bacteria,
Mycoplasma pneumoniae, Legionella, Salmonella, Chlamydia
trachomatis, Campylobacter, Proteus mirabilis, Enterococcus,
Enterobacter cloacae, E. coli, Pseudomonas group I, Neisseria
gonorrhoeae, bacteria, and fungi also are disclosed.